

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Continuation)	
Patent Application of)	
Serial No. 09/437,667)	
)	Group Art Unit: 3728
Mary Purvis)	
)	Examiner: B. Gehman
Serial No. To Be Assigned)	
)	
Filed: June 29, 2001)	
)	
For: REPLACEABLE COOLER TOPS)	
WITH SPORTS LOGO)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present application is a continuation of the Patent Application No. 09/437,667 filed November 10, 1999. Prior to an initial examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 5, having Figs. 5A and 5B, shows an exemplar manner of securing the attachment of Fig. 2A by "VELCRO" brand hook and loop fastener to the cooler body.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An alternate to the embodiment to Figs. 3 to 4 is now described. That is, the attachment 44 is selectively and removably secured to a relatively planar side 46 of the cooler 40. In its preferred embodiment, the attachment 44 is selectively adhered to a tope surface 42, but alternatively, an attachment could be secured to a side surface 46 as described above. In an acceptable alternative, a plurality of similar attachments 44, bearing either the same of different logos, are secured as described above to any of the top, sides, or ends of the cooler. In this way, a single cooler could display up to five (5) sports logos on its surfaces, excepting the bottom surface to avoid inadvertent wearing of the logo and instability of the cooler form the three-dimensional lower surface or bottom. While the adhesive preferred is as previously described, this multi-surfaced embodiment can also be accomplished by using the "VELCRO" brand hook and loop fasteners discussed later in connection with Fig. 5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 5, having Figs. 5A and 5B, shows a representative embodiment in which a cooler top attachment 44 and top 42 are secured together, but releasably, by "VELCRO" brand hook and loop type securing members 50. Which half of the securing members is on top and which is on the attachment is not significant. In use, by bringing the attachment in proximity to the top, the fasteners mater to securely hold the attachment on to the top of the cooler. Later, to exchange a top 42 for another, the user merely pulls on an edge or corner of the attachment in a well-known

manner, to release the current attachment from the top of the cooler, leaving the top ready to receive another attachment with a like fastener on its reverse surface.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The embodiment of Figs 2 to 9 thus show various means for selectively adhesively securing to the cooler, whether at its top or at its sides and ends, including adhesives, "VELCRO" brand hook and loop fasteners, guide rails, elastomeric band members, or magnetic force. Other mechanical means for achieving the desired coaction and cooperation between the attachment and its cooler top are also available for use.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1- 44 without prejudice and disclaimer of their underlying subject matter and add new claims 45-62.

45. (new) A method of releasably attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device comprising the steps of:

providing a structural member sized and dimensioned in a manner that is structurally compatible with a body of an insulating cooler and having the predetermined indicia thereon; applying a releasable affixation device to said structural member; and

releasably affixing said structural member to a planar portion of said insulating cooler device using said releasable affixation device, whereupon one predetermined indicia is non-destructively exchanged for another predetermined indicia on said body.

body.

46. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying adhesive to the said structural member.

47. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a [VELCRO brand] hook and loop type of fastener.

48. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a plurality of guide members.

49. A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying an elastomeric band, so dimensioned as to extend around a periphery of said structural member.

50. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying magnets or ferromagnetic metal structurally arranged so as to mate with magnets or ferromagnetic metal attached to said insulating cooler device.

51. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said predetermined indicia is a sports logo.

52. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device, said attachments having predetermined indicia thereon, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an insulating cooler device having a substantially planar portion;
- b) providing a plurality of interchangeable structural members, each said interchangeable structural member having the predetermined indicia thereon;
- c) releasably affixing one of said plurality of interchangeable attachments to said substantially planar portion using said releasable affixation device for a first predetermined time period;
- d) removing said one interchangeable attachment from said substantially planar portion; and
- e) releasably affixing another of said plurality of interchangeable attachments to said substantially planar portion for a second predetermined time period.

53. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 52, further comprising the step of:

applying a releasable affixation device to each of said plurality of interchangeable attachments.

54. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 52, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying adhesive to the said structural member.

55. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a VELCRO brand fastener.

56. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a plurality of guide members.

57. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying an elastomeric band so dimensioned as to extend around a periphery of said interchangeable attachment members.

58. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying magnets or ferromagnetic metal structurally arranged so as to mate with magnets or ferromagnetic metal attached to said insulating cooler device.

59. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said interchangeable attachment is a removable cover, and wherein said applying step comprises the step of integrally attaching a structural member to said removable cover that mates with a body portion of said insulating cooler device.

60. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 59, wherein said integrally attaching step comprises attaching a plurality of mortises or tenons, so dimensioned as to mate with corresponding tenons or mortises, respectively, on said insulating cooler device.

61. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 59, wherein said integrally attaching step comprises attaching an elastomeric band around a periphery of said removable cover.

62. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 52, wherein said predetermined indicia is a sports logo.

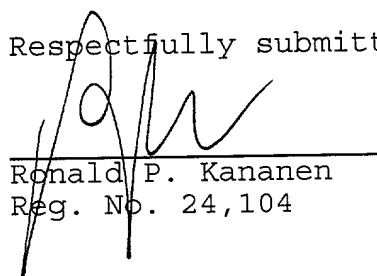
REMARKS

This is a voluntary preliminary amendment and a continuation application directed to claims 45 to 62.

This preliminary amendment cancels claims 1-44 without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter. It is requested that the art cited and made of record in the parent application be considered in this continuation application.

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. An early and favorable action on the material is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 29, 2001

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APPENDIXIN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 5, having Figs. 5A and 5B, shows an exemplar manner of securing the attachment of Fig. 2A by "VELCRO" brand hook and [eye attachment]loop fastener to the cooler body.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An alternate to the embodiment to Figs. 3 to 4 is now described. That is, the attachment 44 is selectively and removably secured to a relatively planar side 46 of the cooler 40. In its preferred embodiment, the attachment 44 is selectively adhered to a tope surface 42, but alternatively, an attachment could be secured to a side surface 46 as described above. In an acceptable alternative, a plurality of similar attachments 44, bearing either the same of different logos, are secured as described above to any of the top, sides, or ends of the cooler. In this way, a single cooler could display up to five (5) sports logos on its surfaces, excepting the bottom surface to avoid inadvertent wearing of the logo and instability of the cooler form the three-dimensional lower surface or bottom. While the adhesive preferred is as previously described, this multi-surfaced embodiment can also be accomplished by using the "VELCRO" brand [attachments]hook and loop fasteners discussed later in connection with Fig. 5.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 5, having Figs. 5A and 5B, shows a representative embodiment in which a cooler top attachment 44 and top 42 are secured together, but releasably, by "VELCRO" brand hook and loop type securing members 50. Which half of the securing members is on top and which is on the attachment is not significant. In use, by bringing the attachment in proximity to the top, the fasteners mate to securely hold the attachment on to the top of the cooler. Later, to exchange a top 42 for another, the user merely pulls on an edge or corner of the attachment in a well-known manner, to release the current attachment from the top of the cooler, leaving the top ready to receive another attachment with a like fastener on its reverse surface.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The embodiment of Figs 2 to 9 thus show various means for selectively adhesively securing to the cooler, whether at its top or at its sides and ends, including adhesives, [Velcro]"VELCRO" brand hook and loop fasteners, guide rails, elastomeric band members, or magnetic force. Other mechanical means for achieving the desired coaction and cooperation between the attachment and its cooler top are also available for use.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend cancel claim 1- 44 and add new claims 42-72 without prejudice and disclaimer.

45. (new) A method of releasably attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device comprising the steps of: providing a structural member sized and dimensioned in a manner that is structurally compatible with a body of an insulating cooler and having the predetermined indicia thereon; applying a releasable affixation device to said structural member; and

releasably affixing said structural member to a planar portion of said insulating cooler device using said releasable affixation device, whereupon one predetermined indicia is non-destructively exchanged for another predetermined indicia on said body.

46. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying adhesive to the said structural member.

47. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a [VELCRO brand] hook and loop type of fastener.

48. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a plurality of guide members.

49. A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying an elastomeric band,

so dimensioned as to extend around a periphery of said structural member.

50. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying magnets or ferromagnetic metal structurally arranged so as to mate with magnets or ferromagnetic metal attached to said insulating cooler device.

51. (new) A method of attaching predetermined indicia to an insulating cooler device according to claim 45, wherein said predetermined indicia is a sports logo.

52. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device, said attachments having predetermined indicia thereon, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an insulating cooler device having a substantially planar portion;
- b) providing a plurality of interchangeable structural members, each said interchangeable structural member having the predetermined indicia thereon;
- c) releasably affixing one of said plurality of interchangeable attachments to said substantially planar portion using said releasable affixation device for a first predetermined time period;
- d) removing said one interchangeable attachment from said substantially planar portion; and
- e) releasably affixing another of said plurality of interchangeable attachments to said substantially planar portion for a second predetermined time period.

53. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 52, further

comprising the step of:

applying a releasable affixation device to each of said plurality of interchangeable attachments.

54. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 52, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying adhesive to the said structural member.

55. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a VELCRO brand fastener.

56. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying a plurality of guide members.

57. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying an elastomeric band so dimensioned as to extend around a periphery of said interchangeable attachment members.

58. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said applying step comprises the step of applying magnets or ferromagnetic metal structurally arranged so as to mate with magnets or ferromagnetic metal attached to said insulating cooler device.

59. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 53, wherein said

interchangeable attachment is a removable cover, and wherein said applying step comprises the step of integrally attaching a structural member to said removable cover that mates with a body portion of said insulating cooler device.

60. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 59, wherein said integrally attaching step comprises attaching a plurality of mortises or tenons, so dimensioned as to mate with corresponding tenons or mortises, respectively, on said insulating cooler device.

61. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 59, wherein said integrally attaching step comprises attaching an elastomeric band around a periphery of said removable cover.

62. (new) A method of interchanging attachments for an insulating cooler device according to claim 52, wherein said predetermined indicia is a sports logo.